

Memorandum

**TO: PARKS AND RECREATION
COMMISSION**

FROM: David J. Mitchell
Parks Planning Manager

**SUBJECT: SCHEDULE A JOINT PUBLIC
HEARING FOR PELLIER PARK**

DATE: October 25, 2006

Approved

Date

RECOMMENDATION

Schedule a joint public hearing with the Historic Landmarks Commission for Wednesday, December 6, 2006, regarding the approval of the proposed turnkey renovation improvement by Barry Swenson Builder to Pellier Park and direct staff to return on November 15, 2007, with plans for the proposed renovation of Pellier Park Phase 1 and Phase 2.

BACKGROUND

Pellier Park is currently being used by Barry Swenson Builder as a staging area for its City Heights Housing Project. This use has caused the park to be closed for approximately 18 to 24 months, after which time, Barry Swenson Builder will rebuild the park from concept plans approved by the City for Phase 1. The Historic Landmarks Commission will issue a permit for the renovation of Pellier Park.

Pellier Park was a bicentennial gift from the people in 1977 to the City of San José, which served as a historical landmark designating the site of Louis Pellier's City Garden's Nursery established in 1850. The Pellier Family was responsible for the importation and propagation of fruit trees that were used in development of orchards throughout the San José region. Their greatest introduction was the la petite prune d'Agen. By 1885 the dried d'Agen prune was an international market favorite. The prune industry provided a stable economic base for the Valley's prosperity until the transition to industry, which began after World War II.

ANALYSIS

The Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department has been conducting an open community meeting process with Barry Swenson Builder and its landscape architect on the new concept design for the park. Construction of the park and the adjacent paseo fall under the City's normal turnkey park process, except that the City will need to secure a permit from the City's Historic Landmarks Commission in order to construct the park. The proposed concept plan for

the park reflects the sites' agricultural past by planting fruit trees and vines in the park with interpretive signage.

Barry Swenson Builder will construct the renovation of Phase 1 of Pellier Park as approved by the City. The North San Pedro Housing Project will be responsible for the Phase 2 development of Pellier Park, when the Julian Street Curve is removed to restore the street grid-system in the area.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

On February 2nd and 28th, 2006, the City conducted two community meetings regarding the renovation of Pellier Park. These meetings were noticed to the community living within 1000 feet of the proposed development along with a display ad in the San Jose Mercury News. A similar notice will inform the public of the two Commission meetings.

There was community consensus on the proposed plan, and that plan was forwarded to the Historic Landmarks Design Committee for its review and input before it would be agenized for consideration by the full Historic Landmarks Commission and the Parks and Recreation Commission. After the two Commissions approve the plan, it would then be submitted to City Council for final approval as an amendment to the turnkey agreement with Barry Swenson Builder.

PROPOSED HEARING

Please Schedule a public hearing on December 6, 2006, regarding Phase 1 and Phase 2 Renovation of Pellier Park located on St. James Street at Terraine Street for Wednesday, December 6, 2006, and direct staff to provide the Commission with a study session of the proposed concept plans on November 15, 2006.

David J. Mitchell
Parks Planning Manager